

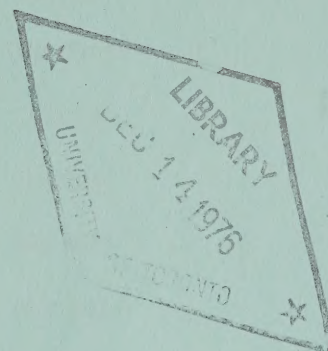
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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

OPEN MEETING WITH McMASTER UNIVERSITY

JUNE 20, 1975

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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

5-0209 MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH McMASTER UNIVERSITY

LOCATION

Brock University

DATE AND TIME

June 20, 1975
2:00 p.m.

5-0210 ATTENDANCE

OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

W. E. Bagnall

D. G. Hill

M. A. B. Bush

T. R. Léger

A. D'Iorio

J. F. Mustard

P. D. Fleck

M. F. Orange

R. Gerstein

R. P. Riggin

L. Good

H. H. Walker

W. A. Goyan

J. R. Yarnell

T. Giesbrecht

OCUA STAFF

J.P. Venton
Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary

McMASTER UNIVERSITY DELEGATION

Dr. A. Bourns
President

Mr. H. C. Dixon
Vice-Chairman, Board of
Governors

Prof. H. Guite
Professor, Classics

Mr. D. Hedden
Vice-President, Administration

Dr. B. Jackson
Chairman, Committee on Academic
Policy and Professor, English

Dr. R. Joyner
Dean, Faculty of Business

Dr. L. King
Dean, School of Graduate Studies

Dr. A. Lee
Vice-President, Academic and
Professor, English

Dr. M. Levinson
Professor, Civil Engineering

Dr. P. Newbigging
Professor, Psychology and member
of the Council of Ontario Universities

Dr. D. Sprung
Dean, Faculty of Science and
Professor, Physics

Dr. W. Walsh
Professor, Medicine and Associate Dean
Faculty of Health Sciences

Mr. M. Bentley
Graduate Student

Prof. W. McCallion
Dean, School of Adult Education

Mr. F. Sherman
Chairman, Board of Governors

Dr. J. Wade
Acting Dean
Faculty of Engineering and
Professor, Mechanical Engineering

Mr. J. McGurran
Undergraduate student

Introductory remarks by the President were followed by a discussion which focused on the following:

5-0211 FORMULA REVISION

i) Enrolment Desensitization

The delegation expressed reservations concerning slip year and split BIU approaches to financing. It was felt that the University of Western Ontario suggestion for enrolment desensitization through a three-year rolling enrolment average would have merit. However, it was felt critical that system-wide enrolment increases take place in those institutions which could currently accommodate them, i.e. where marginal costs were less than average costs. It was hoped that any growth could be accommodated under an enrolment desensitized formula rather than under a system-wide enrolment quota situation. The delegation pointed out that COU had expressed its intention to address itself to the identification of areas of underfilled capacity on a system-wide basis.

The University of Toronto proposal for formula revision was viewed favourably by McMaster due to its recognition of basic expenditures.

ii) Health Sciences

The delegation stressed that where there existed a Provincial directive to increase enrolment to meet defined Provincial needs and where marginal costs approximate average costs, it was imperative that growth be fully funded on a current year, not slip year, enrolment base. This point was made in conjunction with the proposal to increase the enrolment in McMaster's Medical school.

The delegation also pointed out that the formula weight for Nursing was inadequate and that in the case of Nursing, as distinct from Medicine, clinical costs were not funded separately.

A number of innovative Health Science programmes which had been mounted and sustained through external agencies were mentioned. However it was stressed that unless additional funding became

available when external support expired, McMaster would be forced to regress to more traditional forms of Health Science education.

In the Sciences McMaster had made the choice to limit growth because marginal costs would exceed average costs. However, it was unclear whether the University had this option in the case of Medicine, especially in the light of strong public opinion.

iii) General/Honours Distinction

In both Arts and Science the delegation reported that undergraduate costs run on the average 40% higher than the revenue generated through formula weights. The same situation existed in Engineering. At the graduate level student weights appeared to align with programme costs. The delegation pointed out that real cost differentials existed between the provision of general and honours programmes and agreed to forward explanatory data in this regard.

iv) Research

The delegation stressed the need for Government funding of the indirect costs of research. It was recognized that all contract research should be fully supported by the enlisting agency including the cost of faculty time and overhead. However, it was felt that the revenue generated through the operating grants formula by graduate students was insufficient to cover indirect costs which must be borne by each university if research is to continue. The delegation also felt that in areas such as Humanities, Provincial Government funding on a non-contractual basis of the salaries of faculty engaged in research should be given consideration.

5-0212

ACCESSIBILITY

i) Medicine

It was reported that in the current year 40% of McMaster Medical

entrants came from the Hamilton health district, approximately the same number from the rest of Ontario and 20% from elsewhere in Canada.

It was pointed out that although applicants for McMaster's Medical school were predominantly male, 52 of the 100 available seats for entrants in 1975-76 would be filled by women.

ii) Enrolment Limitations

It was pointed out that in many programmes McMaster had established enrolment limitations. It was hoped that despite this the University would be able to maintain some internal transferability from other programmes into enrolment-limited programmes, although it was expected that this flexibility would be curtailed. Also, the University anticipated negative community reaction when students from the Hamilton area surpassing the published entrance standards were turned away due to enrolment limitations.

iii) Growth

It was reported that McMaster would admit 9% more students in the fall of 1975 as compared to fall 1974.

5-0213

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

With regard to the Ontario Graduate Scholarship programme the delegation did not favour decreasing the number of awards in order to increase the value of individual stipends; however, it was felt that ideally both the number and amount of awards should be increased. As well it was felt that the value of OGS's should retain a relativity to NRC and other prestige awards.

COU surveys had indicated that the proportion of the operating budget devoted to faculty salaries and graduate student salaries was generally the same at McMaster as at other universities. However, it was pointed out that McMaster devoted proportionately less than other universities to faculty salaries and proportionately more

to graduate assistantships. The delegation felt that it would not be inappropriate to remove ceilings on assistantships in that if a university wished to devote more of its funds to the graduate effort it should have the freedom to do so. It was stressed that unless graduate student stipends were made attractive, some good students would not be interested in graduate studies in Ontario if at all. As well the delegation noted that the \$3,000 limit put additional pressure on research grants for research assistantships. The recent decline in Science graduate students, McMaster felt, would not be rectified until the universities became able to offer sufficient support.

5-0214 GRADUATE STUDIES

The delegation reported that in areas of real graduate strength the University was doing everything possible to maintain it. In areas where ACAP assessments had indicated a solid base, efforts toward improvement were being undertaken. Weak programmes at McMaster were being allowed to remain weak. The University accepted that it could not achieve excellence in every field.

The delegation hoped that OCUA would take the lead in an iterative process to map out the directions of graduate planning generally, with the specifics of planning, assessments and appraisals being left to COU and OCGS.

5-0215 SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

The delegation reported that McMaster had realized some savings from the monograph demonstration project and anticipated more. It was agreed that detailed cost data would be forwarded.

5-0216 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

It was felt that at McMaster the levels of service and quality were being damaged through lack of faculty growth, and that if this were allowed to continue the character of the University would change drastically. In this regard the delegation stressed that strong

doctoral programmes from time to time require new faculty in order to maintain their strength.

It was noted that in recent years the amount of faculty and student involvement in budgetary considerations due to fiscal restraint had acted as a drain on the intellectual activity of the University.

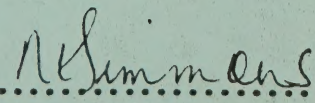
Capital consumption of equipment at McMaster was felt to stem from two factors: the cessation of capital assistance for equipment and the failure of research grants to keep pace with inflation.

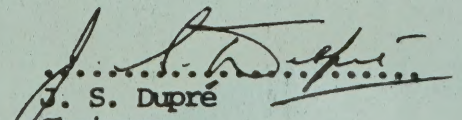
A student member of the delegation noted the following effects of fiscal stringency:

1. increasing class sizes
2. smaller selection of second, third and fourth year courses
3. diminished library resources and availability offerings
4. discontinuation of the McMaster Independent Studies Programme
5. shortages of teaching equipment
6. undue protection of tenured faculty regardless of calibre and limitation of the influx of younger faculty

Through the technique of 'zero base budgeting' McMaster intended to eliminate 50 support staff positions during 1975-76. It was reported that this would result in faculty carrying out some support staff functions - a short term solution chosen because in future it would be easier to recruit support staff than to rebuild a depleted faculty.

In conclusion the Chairman of McMaster's Board stressed that further fiscal reductions would directly diminish the quality of teaching at McMaster.


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N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary


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J. S. Dupré
Chairman

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